

Lesson Plan: Community Awareness – A Place Called Fairfax

This is a basic locational geography activity using a variety of maps. It can be used early in the year to determine student's relative comfort with using maps and atlases as well as during a study of local government to reinforce a sense of community and a need for government.

Connection to POS: Standard 8.5

- ◆ *Students will be able to acquire information from a variety of sources (8.5.1)*
- ◆ *Students will be able to organize information in a variety of forms. (8.5.2)*

SOL Standard: 7.10



Objectives

At the end of this lesson students will be able to:

- ◆ describe the relative location of Fairfax County and analyze the importance of that location.
- ◆ develop a definition of community as it applies to Fairfax County.
- ◆ explain how Fairfax County is organized (through mapping and zoning) and how this affects local governance.



Materials

- ◆ Enclosed map masters
- ◆ A wall map or transparency of the United States
- ◆ A wall map or transparency of Virginia
- ◆ A transparency of the D.C. metropolitan area

Fairfax County Program of Studies: "Closest To The People"

- ◆ Recommended wall maps of Fairfax County: Districts (F), *Public Facilities*, 1998 (N), and *Comprehensive Land Use Plan*, 1995 (V) Available for purchase from Publications Office at the Government Center.



Time Needed

- ◆ 45 to 60 minutes



Procedures

1. Make individual copies of the outline masters and provide copies to each student. Have colored pencils available. Ask students to label and color the outline masters indicating the relative location of Fairfax County. Students should be able to identify the following neighboring jurisdictions: Arlington County, Prince William County, Loudoun County, City of Alexandria, Falls Church City, Fairfax City, Washington, D.C., and Montgomery County and Prince George's County in Maryland. The towns of Vienna, Herndon, and Clifton should also be noted.
2. Review the locations of the above places. Ask students to study the maps in preparation for a map quiz. Allow them to complete the maps from memory as a group in preparation for the quiz the following day.



Assessment

- ◆ A map quiz
- ◆ Map projects/drawings can be compiled to start an individual atlas for each student.



Extensions

- ◆ Consider creating a PowerPoint presentation. Use maps downloaded from the County Webmaster's Map Gallery at www.co.fairfax.va.us/fairfax.htm



Differentiations

- ◆ Using transparencies of the outline masters provided, fill in the maps on the overhead and have students copy the information onto their individual copies. Model a color coding system and the use of keys to reinforce organizational and geographic skills.



Interdisciplinary Connections

- ◆ Students can focus their current events searches on articles or events that are taking place between Fairfax County and neighboring jurisdictions (i.e., the Wilson Bridge construction.)
- ◆ Math teachers can supplement this lesson by focusing on mapping and discussing the distortion that results when 3-dimensional images are projected onto 2-dimensional surfaces.